DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
(416) 947-3413
FAX (416) 947-9070

THE LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA

OSGOODE HALL
TORONTO, CANADA
M5H 2N6

September 14, 1988

Mr. Chris Brown
1102-258 Lisgar
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P OC9

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for the extensive material that you have sent to me that I have only now finished reading, as I was heavily involved in getting the social assistance report ready for release last week.

I think I should begin by telling you that I too, have been concerned that we have put extensive effort into a new report for the Government at a time when the recommendations of the earlier report I was involved in have generally not been acted upon. When the Social Assistance Review Committee was created, there had been some delay but it did not appear that the Government was not going to act on those recommendations. The Minister for whom we did the social assistance report is, we think, a very committed individual and it was his assurances that this would not be an ignored report that led all of us to take on the job. As well, the social assistance report did give me an opportunity to address some issues that are of importance to those with environmental hypersensitivity, e.g., the definition of disability for the purposes of social assistance.

None of this takes away the fact that I have been and remain very disappointed with the response to the report on environmental hypersensitivity. I have been as vocal as I can be about the need to implement the report, including being available for any public discussions of the issue and meeting with the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister and other people within the Health Ministry. I remain convinced that our recommendations make sense and would do much to diffuse the adversarial atmosphere that makes things worse rather than better for patients. The fact that I am now part of a second report for government in no way diminishes my concern in this area.

I am most impressed with the work that you have been doing to bring the issue to public attention. I would be quite prepared to meet with you when I am next in Ottawa to talk about what kind of help I could be. If you are interested, perhaps you might call me (461-947-3414) and we can set up something.

I told the press last week that I release this report with some trepidation because of what was done with the earlier report. However I also feel very strongly that major changes must occur in the social assistance system and so I am prepared to fight hard for those as well. I hope you are not right in your suggestion that the earlier results make this effort somewhat of a sham. Only time will tell.

I look forward to talking with you further.

Yours very truly

George M. Thomson

GMT:GG